Government of India to these towns during this period.

(c) The following components of town development were covered in these towns:

(i) Site and services (Acquisition and development of residential areas).

(ii) Development/construction of shopping centres.

(iii) Construction of new roads.

(iv) Widening and improvement of roads.

World Bank assistance for drinking water projects in Andhra Pradesh

525. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given by the World Bank for the drinking water projects in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise, and till date; and

(b) whether Government have finalised any proposal sent by the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) No amount has been given by World Bank for rural drinking water supply projects in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years.

(b) No, Sir.

Villages without drinking water facilities in A.P.

526. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in Andhra Pradesh without drinking water facility as on date; and

(b) whether any comprehensive scheme has been drawn up and is being implemented to provide drinking water to such villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) and (b) The number of identified problem villages is 'Nil' in Andhra Pradesh. It is proposed to augment water supply to 1000 Partially Covered villages in Andhra Pradesh during 1990-91 under the existing schemes. Against the allocation of Rs. 23.01 crore for 1990-91 to Andhra Pradesh under Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, an amount of Rs. 11.50 crores had already been released.

Scheme of Railway Network in Andhra Pradesh during Seventh Five Year Plan

527. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes of expansion of railway network in Andhra Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the names of the railway lines in Andhra Pradesh alongwith their total length electrified during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES). (a) During the Seventh Five Year Plan period 72 kms of new Railway line was laid in Andhra Pradesh as follows:—

Miryalguda-Nadikude	39 km
Motumari-Jaggayyapet	33 km

(b) Following sections in Andhra Pradesh were electrified during the Seventh Plan:—

1. Vijayawada-Dornakal-Madhira	411 km
2. Krishna Canal-Guntur-Tenali	52 Km
Total	463 km

Draft survey report of RITES on a bridge on river Sone

528. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES) have submitted a draft survey report on Pahleza-Pipradih, conversion and extension to Jadunathpur Bhawanathpur with a bridge on river Sone to the Railway Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the area concerned is economically depressed and this proposed railway line would help the development process; and

(c) if so, by when Government are likely to complete the project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government of Bihar had engaged the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES) to undertake a techno-economic feasibility study for the construction of a B.G. line from Dehri-on-Sone to Bhavnathpur, which also includes conversion of N.G. line from Dehri-on-Sone to Pipradih. The Study has been completed and a draft report submitted. It is difficult to state, at this stage, as to when the project would be taken up or completed.

Retail market prices of essential commodities.

529. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the average retail market price of Rice (Coarse), Wheat, Groundnut Oil, Mustard Oil, Vanaspati, Sugar, Tea and Kerosene Oil in February, March, April, May and June, 1990;

(b) the reasons for increase in prices, if any, and whether the increase in transportation costs has been a vital contributing factor; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down the increased prices and with what outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) A statement showing the average retail prices of Rice (coarse), Wheat, Sugar, Groundnut Oil, Mustard Oil, *Vanaspati,* Tea and Kerosene in February, March, April, May and June 90 is attached. *(See below)*

(b) There are a number of reasons for increase in prices. The main reasons for price rise are sharp increase in money supply during 1989-90 and earlier years, rising consumer demand, and demand and supply gap in case of some essential items like pulses and edible oils. Besides, increase in procurement and minimum support prices of some of the agricultural commodities, rise in transport cost in the wake of hike in administered prices of petrol and diesel, and increase in railway freights have contributed to inflationary trend and rise in prices.

(c) Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices of essential commodities. Both long term and short term measures being taken for the purpose. The measures taken by the Government broadly include steps to increase the production of essential commodities, effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains, strengthening of Public Distribution System, monitoring of prices and availability situation, strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures; and augmenting domestic supplies through imports (e.g. edible oils) subject to over-all constraint of foreign exchange resources.